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KENTUCKY TO INCREASE ACCESS TO ONLINE LEARNING TOOLS

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Kentucky has been selected to partner with the Florida Distance Learning Consortium (FDLC) to create a P-16 statewide repository for online learning resources, allowing faculty and teachers across the state to share online teaching and learning tools quickly and easily.

“Our goal is to ensure that our full-time faculty and teachers across Kentucky have access to quality online teaching tools,” said Tom Layzell, president of the Council on Postsecondary Education. “Because these resources are often costly and time-consuming to create, this project offers substantial cost-savings for all involved.”

Kentucky is the only pilot state selected for the OnCoRe Blueprint Project of the FDLC, which is funded by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). As a pilot state, Kentucky will receive a detailed blueprint to guide the creation and implementation of the statewide repository. The blueprint will allow Kentucky to ensure that resources are easily exchanged at all levels of education, regardless of different systems and platforms currently in use.

“As the first state to have developed all three virtual entities- the Kentucky Virtual Campus, the Kentucky Virtual Schools and the Kentucky Virtual Library- Kentucky already has a wealth of digital content at its fingertips, putting the state in a unique position to pilot our blueprint,” said Susie Henderson, project director of the OnCoRe project.

The Kentucky Virtual Campus, a unit of the Council on Postsecondary Education, will lead the project. The repository will include existing digital content already in the KYVC, KYVL and KYVHS systems. Additional new content will also be solicited from K-12 public schools and public postsecondary institutions to exponentially increase the amount of resources available to all.

Online teaching resources and learning objects provide multiple interactive ways to engage learners outside the traditional classroom lecture. These resources are helpful not

only for online students, but also for students who are taking traditional classes and use course Web sites to access class assignments or participate in discussion boards. For an example of an online learning object, visit http://www.wisc-online.com/objects/index_tj.asp?objID=ABM6007.

The creation of the repository will complement Kentucky's current collaborative efforts to increase seamlessness in the P-16 education system including the development of an education-centric Kentucky Education Network, the establishment of a statewide P-16 Council, and the procurement of a statewide license for Blackboard course management system.

For more information about the FDLC OnCoRe Blueprint Project, visit <http://www.oncoreblueprint.org>.

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